

CONFIDENTIALD-R-A-F-T
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[Statement for OLC - Classified Version]

Since World War II open foreign-language information sources (newspapers, periodicals, books) of interest to U.S. Government departments and agencies have grown to a point beyond the capability of any single agency to handle the information explosion with staff personnel. Therefore, in 1957, the Joint Publications Research Service (JPRS), using hundreds of free-lance contract translators, was established as a translation service for the U.S. Government. JPRS was organized as a component of the Department of Commerce which was responsible for the advertisement, sale and distribution of JPRS reports to a worldwide subscribership.

However, JPRS was in fact a component of the CIA and the original purpose of the Department of Commerce "cover" was to mask the collection interests of CIA offices, which might have been revealed by the nature of the materials selected for translation, and to avoid adverse notice which might have occurred as a result of the Agency's management of large numbers of independent contractors within the United States.

JPRS responds to the translation requirements of all Government agencies, but its principal tasking is from ~~CIA and specifically from~~ the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS), ~~which is the Agency~~ ^{CIA} component directly charged with collection of information from foreign-

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~~language~~ radio and press sources. JPRS now issues some 51 serial reports covering political, economic, scientific, and sociological developments around the world and has a worldwide subscribership. Since the range of topics covered is so broad, and the public readership so extensive, and the materials entirely from open-source documents and broadcasts, there no longer seemed to be any sufficient reason to conceal the relationship between JPRS and FBIS. Therefore, on [date] JPRS was publically transferred from the administration of the Department of Commerce to that of FBIS. JPRS will still retain its association with Department of Commerce, however, to maintain the effective distribution of its reports to the public.

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